PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, to sustain our nation's strength through trade and to fulfill our international commitments throughout the world, we rely heavily on the men and ships of the American Merchant Marine: and

WHEREAS, our merchant ships are an essential part of the transportation bridges that extend from communities in America to those in Europe and Asia--and to our servicemen and women wherever they stand in freedom's defense; and

WHEREAS, they have carried more than 20 million tons of food, weapons, and supplies to our fighting men in Vietnam--last year alone, they delivered about 4 million tons of wheat to our friends in need in foreign lands--in the same year, they transported 12 million tons of our products to our trading partners abroad and returned with 10 million tons of their goods for our people's use; and

WHEREAS, America's present position as the world's greatest trading power grows from its early tradition, when a strong merchant fleet carried the commerce of a young nation to the seaports of the old world; and

WHEREAS, it is an honor of that historic voyage that the Congress in 1933 designated May 22 as National Maritime Day and requested that a proclamation be issued annually in observance of that day, to remind Americans of the importance of the merchant fleet to our national life:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FRANK L. FARRAR, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby urge our citizens to honor the

AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE

on Wednesday, May 22, 1969, by displaying the flag of the United States at their homes and other suitable places.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the State of South Dakota to be affixed this 15th day of May, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-nine.

Frank L Farrar

FRANK L. FARRAR, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Alma Larson

ALMA LARSON, SECRETARY OF STATE

PROCLAMATION
AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE
'69

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